

was a rare book by an Icelandic author, and I came here confident that I should at last be able to tell the President something that he did not know. Luckily, I found myself seated next to him at table and when what seemed to be the opportune moment came, I said: 'Mr. President, are you interested in Icelandic literature!' With a bounce in his chair he turned an eager countenance upon me and said: * Am I not!' and then proceeded to tell me not only all about my one lonely Icelandic book but dozens of others that I had never heard of."

He did not merely read books—he absorbed them and made their contents a part of his knowledge for all time, ready for instant use at a moment's notice. A book on a particular subject aroused thoughts of his own along the same lines, and when he wrote a letter of praise to the author the chances were that he gave him at the same time ideas and suggestions more or less novel to him, for the wide range of his reading had left few fields of knowledge untouched.

During the years of his presidency and those which followed he was in regular correspondence with the leaders in literary and intellectual life both in this country and in Europe. A bulky volume could he made of his correspondence with English writers alone. Among these the one with whom letters were most frequently exchanged, and during the longest period, was the Eight Honorable Sir George Otto Trevelyan, Baronet, O. M., the English statesman and writer of many books, including *The

Life and
Letters of Lord Macaulay,' 'The Early History
of Charles
James Fox,' and "The History of the American
Revolu-
tion.' It was while Trevelyan was engaged in
the prepara-
tion of the last-named work that the
correspondence became
intimate.

In this series of letters, covering a period
of nearly
twenty years, Roosevelt's characteristics as a
letter-writer
are conspicuously displayed, because in
Trevelyan he had a
correspondent who was peculiarly responsive
to his own
intellectual tastes and knowledge. "Tiurlow
is a